

# Gas leak kills three

TRAGEDY struck a child-headed household in uMalazi outside eShowe when three girls aged between 12 and 17 were found dead in their home on Thursday morning.

A fourth girl is in a serious condition in the eShowe District Hospital.

The girls had spent the night baking and it is believed there was a problem with their gas stove.

Education MEC, Ina Cronje, who was in the area for another function, took time out to visit the household.

She expressed shock at the incident and pledged her department's assistance in the funeral arrangements.

She said, 'It is extremely sad, they were all at school and of course we'll have to see what progress the surviving child makes in hospital and then see that she has a future that holds something better for her'.

The children were orphans and lived alone, receiving food aid from an NGO working in the area.

Cronje says the incident highlights the plight of orphans living in child-headed households.

# Local bags maiden world tour win

Gareth White

RICHARDS Bay bodyboarder, Mark McCarthy, claimed his maiden victory on the International Bodyboarding Association (IBA) World Tour on Saturday 6 September while competing in the Doninos Bodyboard Pro in Spain.

McCarthy is competing in his second year on the IBA World Tour and is known to be one of the toughest competitors in the water, having made four IBA event finals prior to his victory.

McCarthy, who has spent the last nine months travelling the world following the tour circuit, said that he was delighted with his win and could hardly describe how much it meant to him.

'It is a dream come true to make a final on the IBA Tour and win it.

To set a goal and achieve it is a really great feeling! It's the win that I needed after making the finals four times and always falling short,' he said.

On route to the final, McCarthy faced and defeated tough opposition, the likes of six-time World Champ Guilherme Tamega of Brazil and nine-time World Champ Mike Stewart of Hawaii.

McCarthy set the early pace in the final, scoring highly on his opening ride.

Current World Champ Ben Player of Australia quickly matched his score and for the next twenty minutes, Player and current IBA Tour leader, Uri Valadao of Brazil, exchanged the lead and seemed to be the riders to beat.

**The wave to victory**

With five minutes remaining,

McCarthy found the wave he needed and scored a massive 8.75 out of a possible 10 points to take the lead.

Rene Xavier put in a late show to grab two scoring waves and move ahead of Player.

Valadao got his second scoring wave, which ended up 0.16 short of what he needed to beat McCarthy.

As the Richards Bay boykie made his way from the water to the cheers of the crowd, a sea of supporters rushed to his side and carried him off to face the media.

Humble in victory, McCarthy said: 'It was a pretty close final, but I always knew that I was just one good wave away from the lead and when it came I was really happy. I would like to dedicate this win to a close friend of mine Ian Patton, who passed away recently.'



Mark McCarthy is riding the wave of his life after winning his first World Tour on Saturday. See page 21 for more news on Mark

McCarthy plans to return to Richards Bay this week and is looking forward to competing for Northern KZN in the 22nd annual Reef/Science South African Bodyboarding Championships which take place at Alkantstrand Beach between 28 September - 3 October.

**Final results**

- 1 Mark McCarthy
- 2 Uri Valadao
- 3 Rene Xavier
- 4 Ben Player.

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# Water wave

Connie Williamson

A BURST pipe that had water spraying metres into the air, flooded a nearby house and brought traffic to a halt along the North Central Arterial road in Brackenham on Sunday.

Municipal services were quick to respond and had the water shut off within an hour and repaired the pipe in less than six hours. The water supply was fully restored by Monday morning. The house directly behind where the pipe had burst, was completely flooded outside.

The homeowner said the ceilings inside the house were completely damaged.

'It looked like a tidal wave had swept through my garden, lapa and swimming pool and it ripped out everything in its path. It is an awful sight and the affected areas will need a complete makeover,' she said.



The North Central Arterial road near Brackenham was flooded as a pipe burst in the pumping line on Sunday evening

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